

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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1. (currently amended) A method for controlling gas flow into or out of a container assembly that is comprised of a cap and a container, the container having a mouth and neck, the neck forming a flexible lip proximate the mouth, said lip extending outwardly from the top of said neck such that diameter of the lip at its upper circumference is greater than the diameter of the upper circumference of the neck, the lip having an interior sealing surface, and the cap each having a sealing surface, and the sealing surfaces cooperating with one another, the method comprising steps of: preparing the texture of at least one of a group consisting of the sealing surface of the cap and the sealing surface of the container, and adjusting the texture to allow for a sufficient amount of gas to flow into or out of the container assembly as required.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein only the texture of the sealing surface of the cap is prepared.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein only the texture of the sealing surface of the container is prepared.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein both the texture of the sealing surface of the container and the texture of the sealing surface of the cap are prepared.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the group consisting of the sealing surface of the cap and the sealing surface of the container is prepared to have a surface ranging from about high gloss polish to a coarse surface.

6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the surface may be prepared to have a

texture ranging from 1201 E. to 3104 E., or a texture ranging from DME 1 to DME 4.

7. (original) A container assembly comprising: a container including a sealing surface; a cap including a sealing surface; wherein the sealing surface of at least one of a group consisting of the container and the cap is prepared to have a desired texture, and wherein the sealing surface of the container and the cap cooperate with one another to allow for a substantial seal and to allow gas to flow into or out of the container assembly as required.

8. (currently amended) The container assembly of claim 7 wherein only the texture of the sealing surface of the container is prepared.

9. (currently amended) The container assembly of claim 7 wherein only the texture of the sealing surface of the cap is prepared.

B3 10. (currently amended) The container assembly of claim 7 wherein the texture of the sealing surface of both the container and the cap are prepared.

11. (original) The container assembly of claim 7 wherein the container includes a base and a neck, a portion of the neck being the sealing surface of the container; and wherein the cap includes a protrusion, at least a portion of the protrusion being the sealing surface of the cap.

12. (original) The container assembly of claim 11 wherein the cooperation of the sealing surfaces temporarily deforms a shape of at least one of a group consisting of the cap and the neck, and forms a seal between the cap and the container; and wherein an extent of said deformation can be limited by contact between stopping surfaces blocking tighter engagement of the cap with the container.

13. (original) A container assembly comprising: a container and a cap; the container including a base, and a neck for engagement with the cap, an end of the neck defining a container mouth; the neck being substantially symmetrical about a central vertical axis, the neck forming a flexible lip proximate the mouth, with an upper generally frusto-conical exterior sealing surface,

the lip having a lower generally frusto-conical interior sealing surface; the cap including a top, a skirt depending peripherally from the top, at least one first annular sealing protrusion depending from an interior surface of the top, and at least one second annular sealing protrusion depending from an interior surface of the top; wherein, upon engagement of the cap with the neck, the first sealing protrusion sealingly engages the lower interior sealing surface, and the second sealing protrusion engages the upper exterior sealing surface; and, wherein at least one of a group consisting of the interior sealing surface, the exterior sealing surface, at least a portion of the second sealing protrusion, and at least a portion of the first sealing protrusion is prepared to have a coarsened or polished surface so that gas can flow into or out of the container assembly as required.

14. (currently amended) The container assembly of claim 13 wherein the texture of at least two of a group consisting of the interior sealing surface, the exterior sealing surface, at least a portion of the second protrusion, and at least a portion of the first protrusion is prepared.

15. (currently amended) The container assembly of claim 13 wherein only the texture of the at least a portion of the at least one first sealing protrusion is prepared.

16. (currently amended) The container assembly of claim 13 wherein only the texture of the exterior sealing surface is prepared.

17. (currently amended) The container assembly of claim 13 wherein only the texture of the interior sealing surface is prepared.

18. (original) The container assembly of claim 13, the cap further including an additional annular protrusion depending from the interior surface of the top, the additional annular protrusion being radially outside of the first and second sealing protrusions and, upon engagement of the cap with the container, radially outside the lip; the additional annular protrusion being sufficiently rigid and extending low enough and close enough to the flexible lip, upon engagement of the cap with the container, to resist the lip from moving outwardly.

19. (original) The cap and container assembly of claim 13, wherein the container is manufactured of a flexible plastic material.

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20. (original) The cap and container assembly of claim 13, wherein the cap is manufactured of a flexible plastic material.

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